

# The Commons

A Monthly Record Devoted to Aspects of Life and Labor from the Settlement Point of View.

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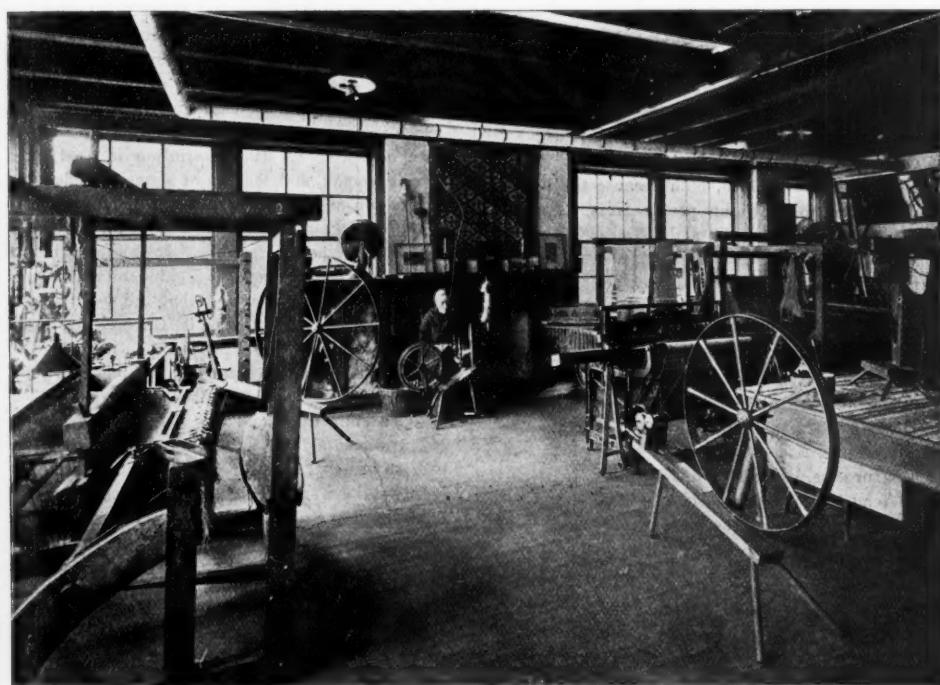
Chicago, May, 1902

## THE LABOR MUSEUM AT HULL HOUSE

BY JESSIE LUTHER, CURATOR.

The present article on the Hull House Labor Museum, has been requested by THE COMMONS, but the subject as far as its origin, theory and object are concerned has been so fully treated in its columns that further comment on the theoretical side seems unnecessary. The present article therefore, while quoting from the first report, is confined chiefly to the increased facilities for

Greeks, Syrians, Russians, Poles, Bohemians and Germans, and among the older representatives of these nationalities many were found who, in their own countries, had used the primitive methods of spinning, with spindle or wheel, for the actual production of clothing for their families, and others who were familiar with the use of the loom, but who, under the changed conditions of life in a crowded American city, where machine-manufactured material can be obtained for so small a



THE TEXTILE ROOM.

work, the enlarged equipment and exhibition, and last winter's development, which, though in some departments is wholly experimental, still brings to its promoters an increasing confidence in its popularity and essential usefulness.

The prospectus recounts the fact that in the district immediately surrounding Hull House were people of many nationalities—Italians

cost, had found no practical use for their skill and no incentive for its continuance. Furthermore the younger generations, many of whom are American-born, were inclined to under-estimate the older people of the colony, lacking, as they do, the power to adjust themselves to the standards of American life.

The idea presented itself that if a number of

those who were familiar with such work could be brought together on certain days to continue it, it would not only be a matter of education to the younger people of the community, but that it would perhaps give to the older people a chance to naturally assume a position to which their previous life and training entitled them, and they would be judged by something of an historic background. There are many shops and factories in the neighborhood, and it was hoped that the younger people who earned their living in them might learn something of the raw material which they were using in a finished state, or only in one stage of its manufacture, and that their daily occupations would thus gain an historic background and prove more interesting in consequence.

#### A MUSEUM OF INDUSTRIAL EVOLUTION.

It was designed from the first to put the various processes into historic order and sequence, and, as far as possible, to illuminate them by correlated art and literature, historical lectures, with charts, diagrams and maps.

The word museum was purposely used in preference to the word school, both because the latter is distasteful to grown-up people from its association with childish tasks and because the word museum still retains some fascination of the show. It may easily be observed that the spot which attracts most people at any exhibition or fair is the one where something is being done. So trivial a thing as a girl cleaning gloves, or a man polishing metal, will almost inevitably attract a crowd, who look on with absorbed interest. It was believed that the actual carrying forward of industrial processes, and the fact that the explanation of each process, or period, was complete in itself would tend to make the teaching dramatic, and to overcome in a measure the disadvantage of irregular attendance. It was further believed, although perhaps it is difficult to demonstrate, that when the materials of daily life and contact remind the student of the subject of his lesson and its connections, it would hold his interest and feed his thought as abstract and unconnected study utterly fails to do. A constant effort, therefore, was made to keep the museum a labor museum in contradistinction to a commercial museum.

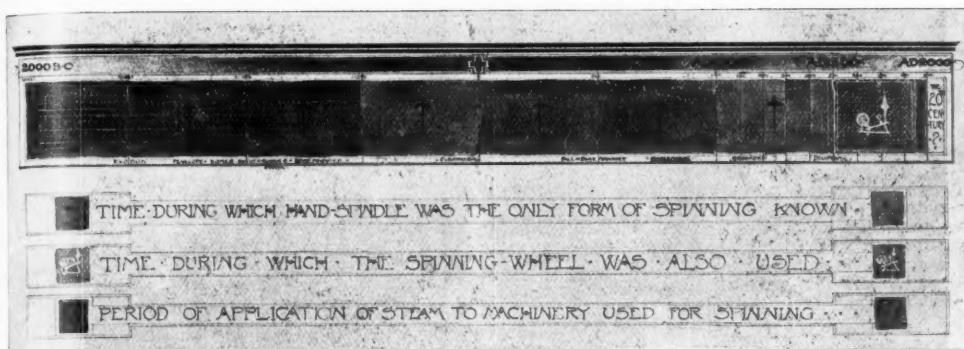
#### THE TEXTILE EXHIBITS.

The Museum was opened in November, 1900, and from the first, five departments were planned, though, owing to lack of space and equipment, only that of the textiles was developed to any extent during the first winter. In one room were placed various appliances for spinning and weaving, largely collected from the vicinity itself. Every Saturday evening people from the neighbor-

hood who had been expert spinners or weavers in their own country came to demonstrate the different processes to the visitors who arrived in large numbers. The spinning was illustrated by the Italians, Greeks, Russians and Syrians, who spun with a distaff for holding the flax, and a spindle composed of a straight stick with one or two discs, and a small hook on the upper end to hold the thread. The Greeks and Russians spun with the head of the spindle downward, and the thread looped or hooked to the smaller end, the reverse of the Italian and Syrian method. All these spindles were set in motion by being twirled on the hip and then held in the air like a plumb and line, while the rapid revolutions of the spindle twisted the thread.

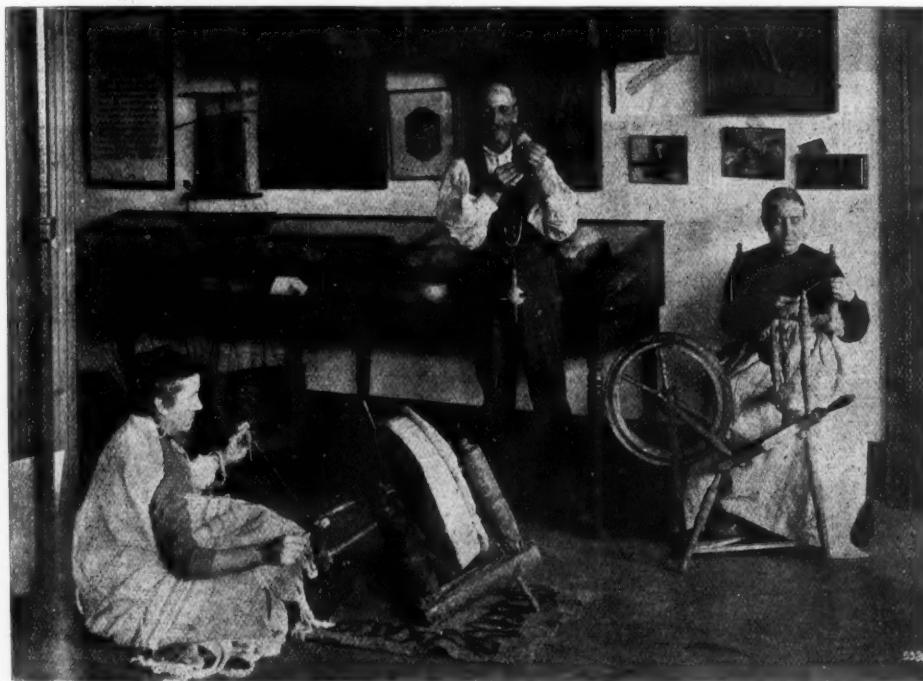
The museum is now able to show four variations of this earliest method of spinning. In one case an Italian woman from the interior of Southern Italy uses a stick weighted by two discs which twirl the fibers together, while a Neapolitan from the coast uses a stick weighted by a ring of metal, which increases the momentum, producing a higher rate of speed. A third variation is used by a Syrian woman, and consists of a small wooden disc at the top of the stick, with which she is able to produce a thread so fine that it would have been broken by a heavier spindle. It is interesting to note that the Syrian skill is able to make good the loss of momentum, and that the speed is sustained. The same process is further illustrated by a Russian woman, who sits upon a chair with the flax held in place upon a stationary frame, thus freeing one hand and arm which would otherwise be obliged to hold the distaff. The women, two Italians, a Russian, and an Irish woman, who uses the comparatively recent spinning wheel, not only do the work well, but very much enjoy the demonstration and explanation, in which they join. The museum is further able to trace the development of spinning from this simple stick through the large hand spinning wheel and the small Saxony wheel, to a number of spindles mounted on a frame, and set in motion by the turning of one wheel for all. In connection with the spinning, demonstrations are held on the first crude processes of scouring, dyeing and carding. Wool, cotton, flax and silk are put through the various processes of preparation, and spun into thread by skilled spinners almost every Saturday evening. Little collections of flax and cotton, as well as wool and silk, are exhibited in the various stages from the raw material to the factory product, and are supplemented by some really beautiful photographs, the latter showing the early Egyptian spinning of flax with the distaff, and the cultivation of flax along the Nile.

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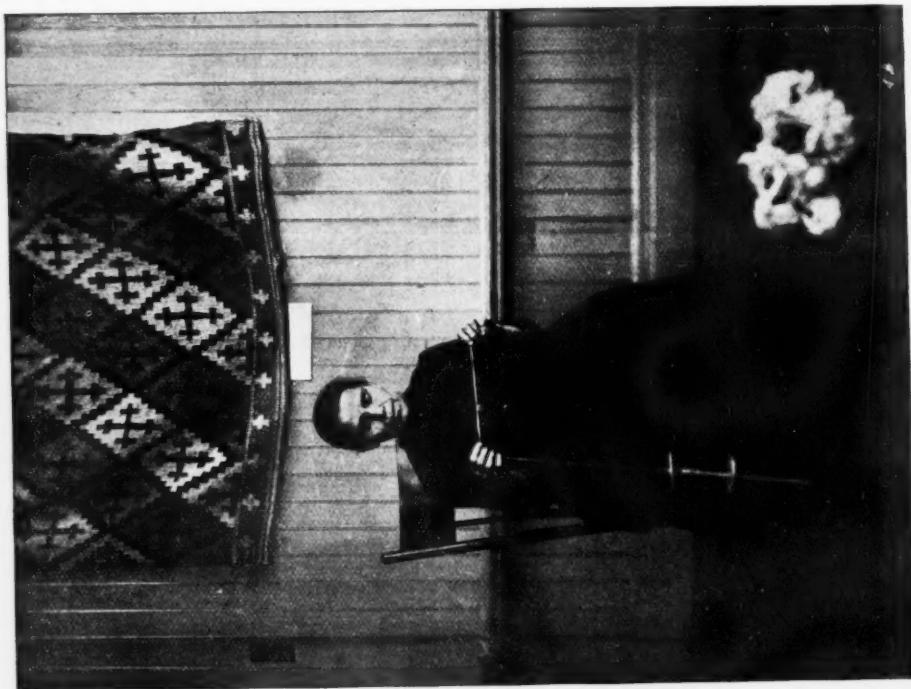


The attempt is made to present the connection between past and present, as graphically as possible. A framed chart is hung on the wall, showing the length of time during which the hand spindle was used to produce all the clothing of the world. The comparatively short time during which the spinning wheel has been used, and the infinitesimal time during which steam machinery has taken its place, are revelations to the majority of people to whom it has not been dramatically presented.

Beginning with 2000 B. C. the straight spindle was used to produce all the spun clothing used by mankind for more than three thousand years, and not until 1500 A. D. was the spinning wheel introduced into Europe. The European spinning wheel was used but a little more than two and one-half centuries when steam was first bunglingly applied to textile manufacture, coming in the latter half of the eighteenth century.



TWO METHODS OF SYRIAN SPINNING AND EUROPEAN WHEEL.



ITALIAN WOMAN SPINNING.



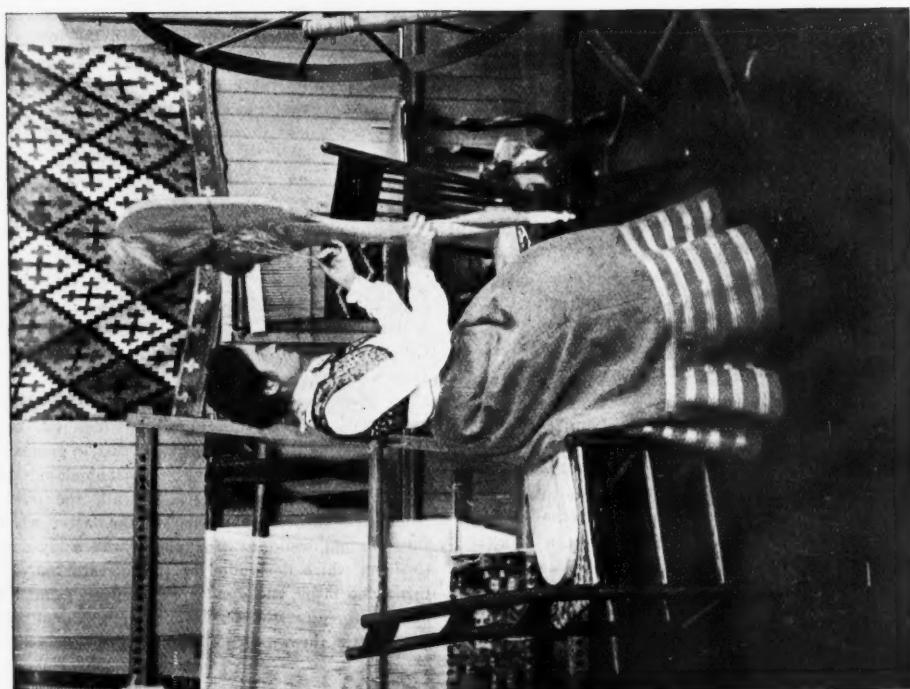
SYRIAN WOMAN SPINNING.

THE COMMONS

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IRISH WOMAN SPINNING.



RUSSIAN WOMAN SPINNING.

Many of the Italian women who came to the museum had never seen spinning wheels, and looked upon them as a new and wonderful invention. The chart shows that steam has been applied to textile manufacturing but a short space in the long line of 3,900 years. Even then it is confined to certain countries of Europe and America and a world map, exhibiting the places in which the straight spindle and the spinning wheel still survive, is a matter of unfailing interest to the visitors of the museum.

Near the charts hangs a diagram of a number of hand spindles and implements used in spinning which were found in an Egyptian tomb, their probable age being about 4,000 years. The charts add an interesting historic background to the women of different nationalities who come on Saturday evening and spin with the inherited skill of many generations, but the small amount of thread that even the fastest spinner can produce necessary to weave a piece of cloth thread necessary to weave even a piece of cloth large enough to enfold the human body in the simplest way, makes one wonder that the human race could have been sufficiently clothed during all the thousands of years that a primitive spindle of some sort was used. Another primitive form of spinning was added this winter and is exhibited by a Syrian man who spins with two short sticks crossed at right angles and fastened together with a bit of yarn, which is wound about the point of crossing, and the four arms thus made are hung by the yarn and twirled as a wheel revolves. The Syrian explained that it was the form of spindle used by the Bedouins in the desert. It has been quite unfamiliar to everyone who has seen it, and is probably one of the most primitive forms known.

If one could add the spider and the caterpillar to the exhibiting spinners, it would indeed be starting at the beginning of things; but there being difficulties in the way of such continued exhibition, we must be content with the hand spinning introduced with the age of man.

An interesting exhibition of spinning with a wheel is shown by a Syrian woman who sent to her own country for a curious, clumsy wheel of apparently home manufacture. The spinner sits on the floor and the supports of the wheel rest at an angle; the wheel is turned by a crank, and the spindle is horizontal and attached to stationary supports and is held in place by two dried mutton joints which contain enough oil to make any additional lubrication unnecessary. When the wheel arrived from Syria the contents of the box showed signs of having been tampered with, and one of the joints was missing, the customs offi-

cials doubtless being ignorant of the important functions of the mutton joints and neglecting to give them proper consideration.

In weaving, the demonstration begins with the earliest weaving of branches and woody fibers in



WEAVING WITH NAVAJO LOOM.

making baskets and mats for the sides of huts.

Before man appeared upon the earth the bird's instinct taught it to weave its nest from fibres, twigs and grasses, the hair of animals, or moss and leaves. The earliest races of man doubtless wove in some crude fashion, and in the tombs of the ancient Egyptians woven material has been found wrapping the bodies of mummies, of which the museum contains a specimen.

The method of lining baskets with clay and afterwards burning away the basket, which led to the development of pottery and its earliest decoration, from the impression of the basket left upon the clay, is illustrated by an attractive little collection of pottery and baskets.

The museum contains a model of a Navajo loom made by the Indians themselves, as well as a Turkish loom, both of which are used by the visitors. Classes of children have reproduced the Indian looms, and, as is done in various schools, they have woven very creditable Navajo blankets. The old Colonial loom of which the museum contains two specimens, was fast in comparison with the more primitive looms, but slow when compared with the youngest of all, the power loom. The nearest approach to the latter which the museum could at first show, was a fly-shuttle loom which demanded of the operator only to bring the lathe back and forth and to mend the broken threads—the harness being changed and the shuttle thrown by a system of levers, set in

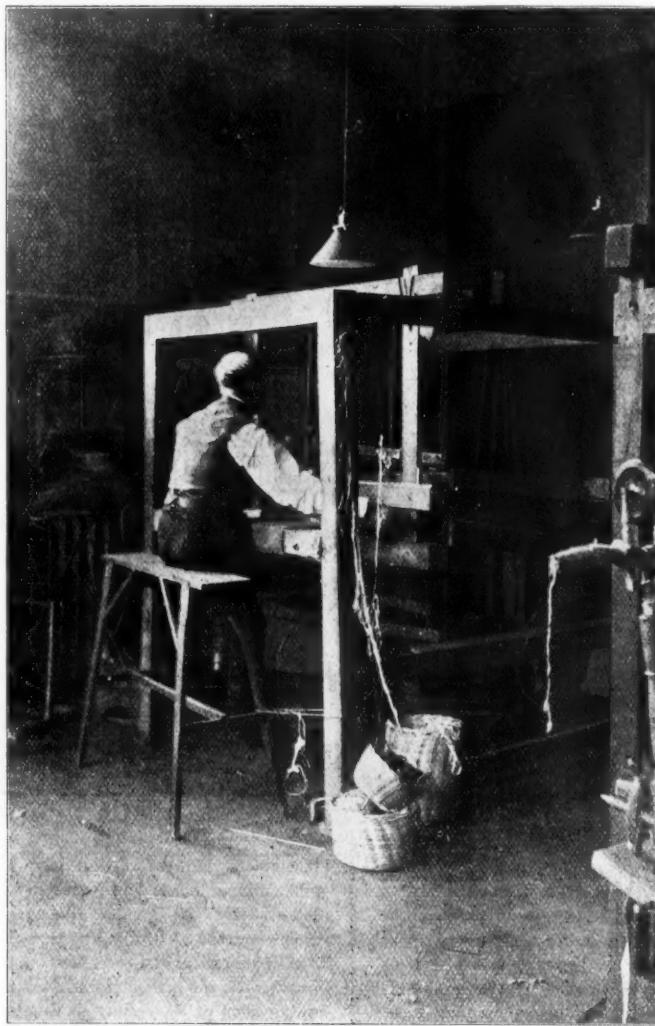
motion by the movement of the lathe, but a modern loom, presented by a factory of a neighboring city, now completes the series, the power for running this loom being supplied by electricity from the Hull House plant.

#### THE DYEING PROCESSES.

Opening from the textile room is a smaller room with three large porcelain tubs used for dyeing

done over bunsen burners, but any large amount of material is dyed in the vats, a pipe conducting live steam supplying the heat.

The dyeing outfit, as well as much of the other equipment, would have been impossible in the narrow quarters in which the museum was at first started, therefore it was fortunate that in the middle of the winter it was possible to move



COLONIAL LOOM.

the material for weaving and for baskets, and equipped with dyes, scales for weighing and a small laboratory outfit. Some of the dyeing is

done over bunsen burners, but any large amount of material is dyed in the vats, a pipe conducting live steam supplying the heat.

It occupies the first floor of this building, a

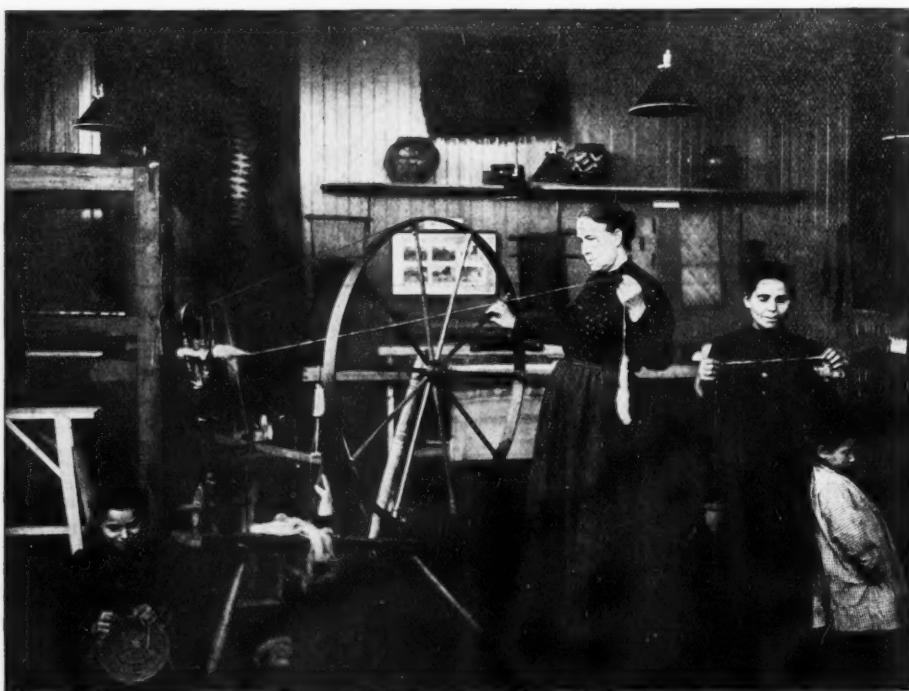
space of 40x100 feet, and two rooms on the second floor. The large windows on the street and alley were purposely planned for the convenience of spectators who might be attracted by the "show" elements of the museum, and the casual passer-by has proved a most enthusiastic advertiser. All of this space is used for three different purposes: a museum, a class-room and a shop. The museum proper, with all its dramatic features, is carried on Saturday evenings. The classes are in progress almost every afternoon and evening and several mornings of the week, and the prod-

The space occupied by these six departments of the museum, house on two floors, is also used for class rooms.

#### MANUAL TRAINING.

On the lower floor the largest room is the general shop for manual training. Work benches for carving and carpentry fill one side and a double tool closet is built into the high wooden wainscoting; against one wall is a green board for drawing.

The museum side, illustrating the wood, is very



SPINNING WITH WOOL WHEEL.

nets of the shop are turned out by adult workers, more or less experienced, who are at liberty to come in whenever they have leisure, using the tools and paying only for material consumed. The product is sold, either by the craftsman himself or by the shop directors, some very creditable work has already been sold in copper and brass, silver filigree of Russian workmanship, in pottery, in carved wood, in homespun and rugs, the latter dyed and woven most skillfully. Already the demand for pottery, metal work, wood work and textiles far exceeds the capacity of the various workers to fill the orders.

incomplete, but several antique wooden tankards and Viking bowls of Norwegian workmanship, some of them gaily decorated, are much studied and admired. A beginning has been made toing classes plan to place a frieze, illustrating their growth and texture. The high wainscoting of the room ends in a shelf, and above it a space is left, on which the Hull House painting classes are planning to place a frieze, illustrating the history of wood from the primeval forest and appearance of the woodcutter, through all the processes of felling the trees, transportation, logging and sawing. The classes in sloyd, carpen-

try and wood-carving are very popular, not only with the girls and boys, but with young men and women as well.

Across the room a long table with iron vises attached, forms the nucleus for the metal work, and on Tuesday nights a large class meets and pounds copper and brass with great enthusiasm, and in most cases with success. Already some interesting bowls and dishes have been made both well-shaped and finished considering the inexperience of the pupils. The work is not easy and requires too much patience, precision and real manual effort to appeal very strongly to the younger boys who prefer wood work or clay.

have been given upon the guilds of metal workers and the effect of metal work upon Phoenician history and commerce.

The potter's wheel and clay bin stand in a retired part of the room with cases and shelves for exhibits on the walls, and on Friday nights pupils come who take turns in using the wheel, those who are not using it modeling pottery forms with their hands, while the process is completed by the firing and glazing done in the pottery kiln.

Only a beginning has been made for decorating pottery, but the possibility has already perceptibly influenced the long established classes in design and drawing. Hull House has maintained



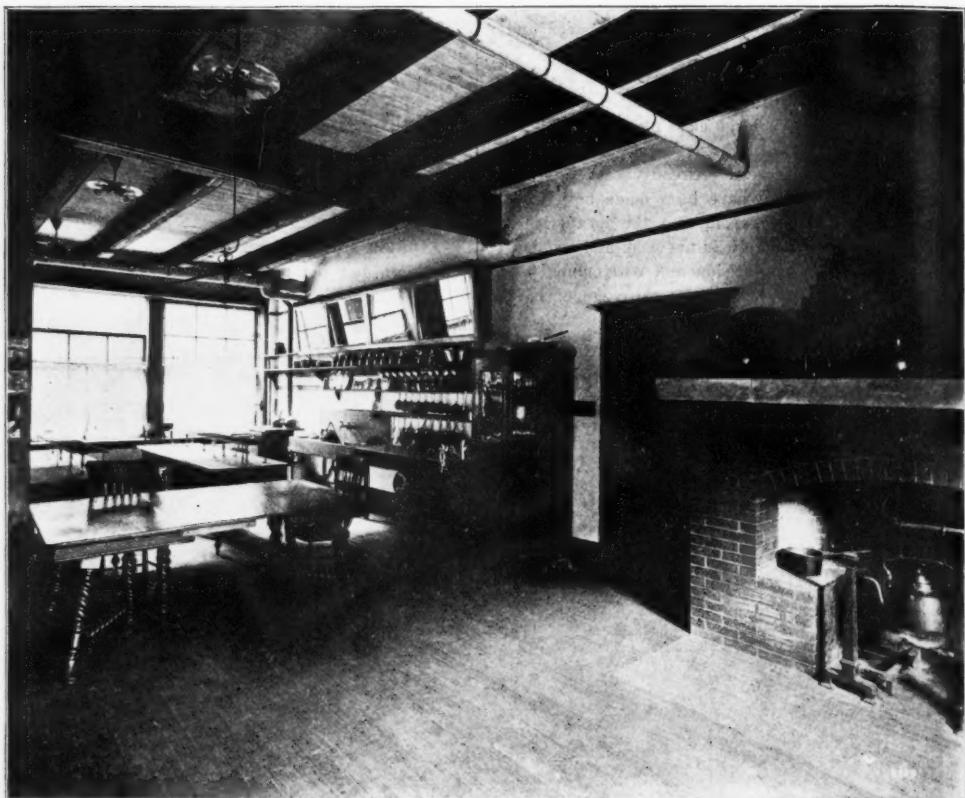
METAL AND POTTERY SECTIONS OF GENERAL SHOP.

Against the wall are cabinets for unfinished work and near the end of the table stands the annealing furnace with its revolving pan and blowpipe and bellows used for softening the metal, hardened by much beating, and a large case contains specimen of copper from the crude ore through its processes of stamping and refining to the finished product, exemplified by some beautiful pieces of Russian, Italian and English work. There are colored drawings of the processes of smelting carried on in the Calumet mines and photographs of famous metal work. Various talks

a studio, in which has been taught large classes in modeling, drawing and painting. It is a distinct advantage that the studio has been moved into the same building containing two shops, and that some of the most promising art students are becoming craftsmen as well.

THE GROWTH OF GRAINS AND THEIR PREPARATION FOR FOOD.

The next department is that of grains. The room is large and is hung with many photographs illustrating the preparation of the ground for the grain and the processes of its preparation for



COOKING SCHOOL KITCHEN.

food as carried on in different countries as well as with one or two primitive implements for grinding. Cases on the wall contain specimens of grains and cereals and a large fire-place built on the model of those used in Colonial times, with its hobs, its crane, pot-hooks and trammels and old brass and copper kettles and cooking utensils form an historic background for the modern cooking tables with their iron racks and bunsen burners, and a gas range of the newest type. Although cooking classes are held here every day during the week, there is still a waiting list and the regular attendance and good work testify to its popularity. It is one of the most important departments and the room with shining utensils on the shelves and racks, and its busy white aproned pupils, is a cheery sight. An Italian woman occasionally cooks macaroni in a kettle over the open fire and women of other nationalities are gradually, although as yet somewhat timidly, offering to demonstrate from their store of traditional household lore and training.

Next to the kitchen is the textile room where during most hours of the day and evening work of some sort is being done. A neighboring Irish woman comes every day to spin flax and wool, which are used on the looms in the manufacture of rugs, homespuns and linen, and she has filled various orders from other shops as well. Twice a week a number of Italian women from the neighborhood come for the afternoon to make baskets and sit about a table chatting gaily over their work. The small children, and sometimes even the babies, come with their mothers, and there have been days when the room has worn the aspect of a small Italian colony.

In this room are also conducted the dressmaking, millinery, sewing, embroidery, basket-making and hammock-weaving classes.

An attempt has been made to correlate the classes around their historic development. In cases along the wall are exhibits of cotton, wool, linen and silk from the raw material to the finished product, showing examples of machine made

and hand made work, and photographs and drawings illustrate the preparation of the material; the shearing of the sheep, the carding of wool, the treatment of flax, etc., and the processes of spinning and weaving as carried on in many countries.

A number of fine specimens of rugs and blankets fill cases high on the wall and there is a small exhibit of baskets of Indian and Southern manufacture. A hatchell, which is a contrivance for combing the flax and separating it from the tow, is not only an interesting part of the exhibit, but an implement of constant use, as are the number of reels of various sorts.

#### PRINTING AND BINDING.

Classes in designing and mechanical drawing are held in a smaller room at the south end of

It is more difficult in this department than in any other to illustrate processes, for the reason that there are a great number of steps in the making of a book and some of them are too long to hold the interest of the casual observer. This difficulty is met, as far as possible, by showing examples of books at various degrees of completeness, and by charts. Specimens of fine printing are shown in this room, including many examples of the Kelmscott Press, of the Dove Press, London, and experiments of various degrees of excellence in this country. A printing room has very recently been opened next to the bindery, with a full hand-press, which is in use and on view Saturday evenings. Nothing of consequence has as yet been attempted on it, but there are plans for



THE BOOK BINDERY.

the general shop. The Hull House studio is on the floor above and on this floor are also the departments of printing and binding. The bindery has been in existence for two years as a private workshop. When the museum was reorganized in the autumn the bindery was also open to the public on Saturday evenings, when specimens of the various stages of the work are shown and explained, together with tools and implements and examples of finished work.

a joint piece of work by the printing and binding "guild" next year.

#### LECTURE COURSE ON INDUSTRIAL HISTORY.

A series of lectures on Industrial History was given on Saturday evenings during the winter, and although the Hull House auditorium seats comfortably 350 people, it was many times packed to its utmost capacity, the audience filling the stairways and the entire stage back of the speaker. The design of the lectures was to give a large and

general survey of labor conditions and the effect of these conditions upon the mass of workers, as the following subjects would indicate:

"Industry Among Primitive Peoples," "Labor Conditions Among the Jews," "Slave Labor in the Roman Empire," "From Slavery to Serfdom—Conditions of the Serfs," "The Day of the Craftsman and the Instinct of Workmanship," "The Guilds of the Middle Ages," "Conditions of Labor Under the Domestic System and Under the Factory," "History of Trade Unions," "The Development of the Factory," "History of Trade Unions," "The Development of the Factory," "Factory Conditions to To-Day," "Labor in Competitive Industries and in Monopolistic Ones."

INTERPRETATIONS OF INDUSTRY IN LITERATURE AND ART.

An attempt was made to fill out by the interpretations of literature the periods of adjustment which accompanied the changes in industrial methods, for although the times of transition were comparatively short, they were big with suffering.

Perhaps the most striking picture of that period when steam was first applied to the manufacturing of textiles, is that drawn by Hauptmann in his drama of "The Weavers." An interesting lecture was given upon the Industrial Revolution in England and the appalling conditions throughout the weaving districts of the north which resulted from the hasty gathering of the weavers into the new towns, also on the regulations of those conditions as the code of factory legislation was slowly developed. The lecturers in the museum found it easy, indeed almost inevitable, to pass from the historical situation to a statement of the industrial difficulties in which we of the present day are so often caught, and the need of adaptability and speedy readjustment to changing conditions which is constantly demanded from the contemporary workman. A tailor in the audience once suggested that whereas time had done much to alleviate the first difficulties in the transition of weaving from handwork to steam power, that in the application of steam to sewing we are still in the first stages. The isolated woman who tries to support herself by hand needlework is analogous in her position to the weaver of one hundred years ago, and the persistence of many of the weavers in their own homes until driven out by starvation is paralleled by much the same persistence among the "home workers" who sew in their own houses. In spite of Charles Kingsley's "Yeast," no poet or artist has endeared the sweatshop victim to us as George Eliot has made us love the belated weaver, Silas Marner.

For a program of labor songs, rendered by the

pupils of the Hull House music school, it was possible to find charming folk songs from the early textile workers, notably a spinning song by Rheinberger, and an old Irish weaving song of much beauty. For the latter period, involving machinery, it was more difficult, although the head of the Hull House music school, Miss Eleanor Smith, set to music a poem written by a sweatshop worker, Morris Rosenfeld, with such realism and force that the pupils of the music school have been invited to sing it before the Consumer's Leagues and other associations who have found it not only interpretative of an experience not remote from their own, but stirring and powerful in its moral appeal.

The Chicago Arts and Crafts Society holds its bi-monthly meetings at Hull House, and its members have always been most generous with their time in assisting the workers in the shops. It is hoped that these shops will include the activities of many people besides the directors and will in time be able to present the historic background, through the people of the immediate neighborhood, whose training represents more primitive methods. These primitive methods will in turn be traced to the factories of the vicinity, and so far as possible the enlarged and developed tool will be rediscovered there. Within a short distance of Hull House are large electrical factories and machine shops using quantities of metal—there are wood-working factories, bakeries and tailor shops. It is hoped that the men and women already working in them may care to come to the museum to be entertained, to work with the tools with which they are already familiar, to study charts and diagrams which are simple and graphic, to attend lectures which may illustrate their daily work, and give them some clew to the development of the machine and the materials which they constantly handle. A man often cannot understand the machine with which he works, because there is no soil out of which such an understanding may grow, and the natural connection of the workshop with culture is entirely lost for him. Two sound educational principles we may perhaps claim for the labor museum even in this early state of experiment—first, that it concentrates and dramatizes the inherited resources of a man's occupation, and secondly, that it conceives of education as "a continuing reconstruction of experience." More than that the best "education" cannot do for any of us.

During both winters a number of people have been attracted to the museum who had never cared to attend the other educational advantages offered by Hull House, and some of the most intelligent students from the various Hull House classes and clubs have cared a great deal for this new at-

tempt at actual demonstration. During the winter numbers of school children and classes of teachers visited the museum, and on several occasions the museum itself became peripetic, and carried its demonstrations to normal schools.

To many visitors it opened a new range of human speculation, that for centuries the human race spun all its clothing with only a simple stick, and from that had to evolve the rapid and complicated machinery with which we are now familiar. It is a genuine piece of observation, and calls upon the analytic powers of the mind to work back from the complicated to the primitive and to see the two in historic relation. It breaks through the narrow present and one's own immediate interests to see the customs of the various countries reproduced in connection with the material with which one is most familiar; to follow this material from its primitive form as it is subjected to direct processes to a finished product, and thus obtain something of the freedom of observation and power of comparison which travel is supposed to give.

#### SOCIAL SETTLEMENT WORK IN THE KENTUCKY MOUNTAINS.

In the spring of 1899, there came to the Kentucky Federation of Woman's Clubs an appeal from the mountains to send thither "A woman, a gentle, womanly woman, to assist in the conduct of meetings, of wives, mothers, housekeepers, young women and little girls; to give lessons in cooking and home making as well as in culture and morals." In response to this appeal, the Kentucky Federation has for three summers sent just such women as were asked for into the most remote mountain counties to live in tents and carry on settlement work.

The "settlers" receive a cordial welcome from the mountain people, who are eager to learn. They say, "We 'low that you'uns as know how has come to show us as don't know how." Parents and grandparents declare, "We never had no chance to larn nothin'; now we are so glad the children have a chance." One man came with two boys, saying, "Will you just please larn 'em some manners," and a woman rode fifteen miles on a mule with a girl behind her who "liked clean livin' and party fixin'" and also wanted "to larn." Boys and girls walked five and six miles daily to join the classes in cooking, sewing, kitchen-garden, kindergarten and singing. A man of thirty-five came to learn to patch and mend that he might teach his wife. Earnest and solemn, men and women, boys and girls, they sit on the steep hillside, sewing from three to four hours every day.

To the first sewing-class came a sixteen-year-old,

lame mother, walking around a very steep, rough cliff, with a nine months' old baby in her arms. This baby had to be cared for while the mother learned to sew and it was soon "norated" about that all the mothers could come, as "them quare wimmin folks would keer for the babies." So began a primitive day nursery.

Children not more than four years old would swear, chew, and smoke because they had nothing else to do. On these the kindergarten songs and occupations quickly took hold, so that it was not hard to persuade them to give up the bad for the good. A little fellow of six came with a bottle of moonshine whisky in his pocket, asking, "Whar is her what shows us how?"

Boys of twelve and fifteen years old begged to be allowed to join in the making of pasteboard chairs, tables and wagons. Dolls they called "puppets" and the paper chains, rattlesnakes.

Sunday schools claimed the time and energy of the "settlers," one on Saturday afternoons and two each Sunday, to which they walked twelve miles and a half. The young people would begin to gather by seven in the morning, pick the banjo and dance, drink moonshine and fire pistols all day. Yet by the time the teachers came all were in their places, knew their lessons, and behaved as most boys and girls do at Sunday school. Very few of these people had ever been to school before, or had bibles.

Besides the regular class work, much was done in the camp and in the homes of the people to cheer and to help them. "Fixin' up a little piece of writin'" for those who could neither read nor write; making the "buryin'" clothes and holding services for the dead; teaching the young people to sing and play innocent games which they could use instead of "mean things" customary at their "gatherin's"—these were some of the varied opportunities for friendly service. Best of all perhaps was the chance to persuade the parents of children who were feeble-minded, or deaf and dumb, blind, and of sound and healthy children, too, to let them go to the proper schools in the lowlands. Two girls were given scholarships at Harlan and eight scholarships were offered at Berea. One ten-year-old girl, who had never been away from home and had never seen a town, started off bravely and cheerily to ride sixty miles behind her brother on a mule, her entire wardrobe besides what she wore, being one little grey dress on which she rode. Another young girl so welcomed the chance to go to school that she was ready to start at once and walk one hundred miles over the mountains, carrying her clothes in a "meal poke."

By a series of talks given in the east this winter,

Miss Pettit and Miss Stone, the leaders in this mountain settlement work, have obtained money enough, in addition to funds already raised in Kentucky, to enable them to buy desirable property for a permanent industrial school at Hindman, Knott County, Ky. They need still the money for the settlement proper and for the annual expenses of both forms of work. It is earnestly to be hoped that it will speedily be made possible for them to bring into contact with the ignorant and humble mountaineer, with the sad and lonely lives of those with whom and for whom they have already lived and worked so much, all of strength and cheer and beauty that is so conveyed, in its best interpretation, by the social settlement.

Condensed from Miss Pettit's report by Mary Anderson Hill.

#### FROM OUR BOSTON CORRESPONDENT.

Boston, April 6, 1902.

Ten years ago this winter settlements became a fact in Boston. In January, 1892, the Andover House, now South End House, was opened and Denison House was being talked of. To-day, in any discussion of settlement work, there must be added, to the seven or eight houses using the name, a number of flourishing clubs that in their neighborhood activities are following out what are known as settlement lines.

With these facts in mind, one is not inclined to give ear to the accusation of discouragement among settlement workers lately made in a Boston paper. It is an encouraging sign that leaders of the movement no longer need as a stimulus the idealization of their work that perhaps attended its beginning. The Elizabeth Peabody House report—one among a half dozen sizable and attractive settlement pamphlets lying before me—gives a summary of its year's work that perhaps characterizes the spirit of all the older workers in its matter-of-fact frankness. It says:

"The work of the kindergarten is good. The work of the boys' clubs, while not ideal, is still good. The work of the girls' clubs is good in itself but is not aimed at the center; there is a waste of energy. The social work is good so far as it goes, but is palliative rather than curative. Instead of making things more tolerable under the present tenement house conditions, we ought to better the conditions themselves."

Quite a marked feature of this year's reports is their "Building News." The South End House, now having its men's residence at 20 Union Park, will soon lay the foundations of a building seventy feet square, that is to accommodate its clubs and classes, and give better opportunities for social functions, kindergarten and industrial work. The

lively neighborhood interest in the lot of land that is being cleared of old buildings, and the appropriate spirit with which the proceedings are watched and discussed, shows how true it is that there is no antidote to petty bickering like large mutual interests.

The Lincoln House is projecting an Arts and Crafts building in the near future; and indeed it seems as if every settlement and club had either just removed to more commodious quarters or was about to erect some addition. The youngest member of the settlement family in Boston, the Civic Service House, established last October, found itself almost at birth in a new three-story building at 112 Salem street. That this is a lusty babe is testified by its leader, Mr. Meyer Bloomfield, who writes:

"We have an average attendance of 400 men a week, 100 boys and 50 girls and women. We have two ideas in view—civic education and civic agitation; one for good citizenship, the other for good government."

#### SETTLEMENT CO-OPERATION IN STREET CLEANING.

The Civic Service House has united with the North End Industrial School, the Elizabeth Peabody House and the Willard Y. Settlement in a street-cleaning movement. They are working among the children preparatory to forming juvenile leagues for the care of the streets, after the pattern of those that existed in New York under Colonel Waring. Though the New York leagues were temporary, they did good work while they lasted, educating both children and parents in the city health ordinances, and arousing a sense of responsibility in the condition of the streets throughout whole neighborhoods. Whatever the cause of their falling to pieces, they were excellent in their results, and the present deputy commissioner of street cleaning, Mr. Gibson, has expressed himself as disposed to repeat the experiment. This activity is part of a simultaneous movement among city reform organizations in regard to street cleaning, and the necessity of arousing a popular interest in the condition of highways and alleys.

The Twentieth Century Club has just issued a report on street cleaning that makes no less than twenty-six recommendations for changes and improvement in methods and ordinances, that serious evils, may be warded off, and its committee are urging and outlining a plan of concentrated action for institutions and settlements.

#### TRAINING SCHOOL FOR SOCIAL WORKERS.

A work that interests and it is hoped will affect all the settlements of Boston is just closing its first season. A Training School for Social Workers was opened in October at Mrs. Quincy Shaw's

house at 6 Marlborough street. The school has offered short courses of simple handicrafts that may be used by settlement workers in their clubs. Basket work and clay modeling have proved most popular, both among the normal students and in their clubs. All reports show the increasing belief in industrial work in the clubs. The purely social club has proved ineffective, except in rare instances, a ladder by which we all climbed but whose base degrees we are now unanimously spurning. The literary club we hear less and less about; it belonged to the idealistic period. But clubs that work together for an hour over a task that absorbs the attention of both hand and brain seem to us to hold great possibilities, material and spiritual.

The South End House, like all the rest, feels this and is beginning to wonder, as well, if better results, with small children at least, cannot be achieved in large clubs, thirty or more, with subdivisions—a federation of little clubs, each with its own leader, but all under the direction of one experienced head. Its first experiment of this sort bids fair to be a great success. Between the kindergarten and the clubs there has been for years a gap in which the children fell away from the influence of the House. Now, the kindergarten "graduates," about thirty-seven in number, are meeting twice a month under the direction of the teacher. The children are classified according to age in several sections, each with its occupation and leader; and at the end of the session, all sections meet together for games and singing. The sections bear the same name, the Kindergarten Band, and there is all the stimulus of numbers with the individual attention of the small clubs.

SETTLEMENT WORKERS FROM THE KENTUCKY MOUNTAINS.

Boston has been shaking hands lately with a most unique and appealing settlement enterprise in a far-away state. Two young women have been visiting us who have told a fascinating story of settlement work in the Kentucky mountains, sixty-five miles from the railroad, two days' horseback ride through the woods. For several years these girls have lived in tents, able to work through the summer only. Now they are raising money for a school house and a permanent home where the work can go on the year round. Already through their inspiration, several young mountaineers have made their way through the woods to become students at Berea College. The Congregationalist tells of this in its issue for this week, a "Good Cheer" number in honor of the eightieth birthday of that prophet of good cheer, Dr. Edward Everett Hale, whose birthday party last

Thursday night filled Symphony Hall to overflowing. Another item tells of a union of pastors, church workers and settlement work workers at the South End, representing six denominations, who have organized for unsectarian social and religious work, reaching into corners of this straggling district heretofore untouched by church or settlement. Kindergarten, clubs, Sunday school and evening meetings are already started. Another encouraging unsectarian item is given in the notice of a new building opened by the Epworth League House, a medical mission. On the opening night a Roman Catholic speaker turned to the workers with the closing words, "And may God bless you in your work."

ELIZABETH Y. RUTAN.

#### The Hartley House Cook Book.

Was written for teachers of cooking in settlements and girls' clubs, and for people who wish to provide nourishing, appetizing food for a moderate cost.

Order from Hartley House, 413 West Forty-sixth Street, New York City. Sixty-five cents per copy by mail. A special rate for orders of three or more.

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# The Commons.

A Monthly Record Devoted to Aspects of Life and Labor from the Social Settlement Point of View.

GRAHAM TAYLOR, - - - - - Editor.

Entered at Chicago Post Office as Second-Class Matter, and Published the first of every month from CHICAGO COMMONS, a Social Settlement at Grand Ave. & Morgan St., Chicago, Ill.

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A Year.

## EDITORIAL.

We congratulate the City of Cleveland, Ohio, Goodrich House and its head resident, Mr. Starr Cadwallader, over his election as director of public schools, which places their business administration in his hands.

Mrs. Elizabeth Y. Rutan's letter from Boston is welcomed as an invaluable addition to our regular monthly surveys of social service by expert observers at the great centers of progressive effort.

### That Overheated Conscience.

As sure as the hearts of the American people are sound and their consciences are quick, somebody must answer for the astounding barbarity in the Phillipines which has disgraced the United States Army in the eyes of the civilized world. The Nation's indignation which sent the army to deliver the Cubans from Spanish methods of warfare was too sincere to allow the nation to abide the inconsistency between suppressing "reconcentrado camps" in Cuba and tolerating "the water cure" in the Phillipines, between banishing by force of arms from the western hemisphere a government which could tolerate a Weyler at the head of its army, and justifying, under any provocation whatever, the order of an American officer to kill all over ten years of age and make their homeland a howling wilderness. For far less savagery against the Boers than that, the British General Kitchener shot two of his officers and imprisoned others for life. Sooner or later the reckoning will come. Better sooner at the hand of the administration than later at the hand of the people.

It is a sorry rejoinder to the protest of the people's conscience for editors to ask, "Did you not know that war is hell? What else do you expect it to be?" Even the charge that what the redoubtable General Funston is pleased to call "overheated conscience" is "firing in the rear," will scarcely cool the white heat of our people's righteous indignation.

### A Stroke of Settlement Genius.

For its originality, suggestiveness and educational possibility, the Hull House Labor Museum is perhaps the most unique and distinctive settlement endeavor ever undertaken. Although its promoters modestly regard it as yet only in its initial and experimental stage, some features, such as the bindery, had achieved well recognized success before being incorporated in the general plan. The possibilities of a scheme so capable of indefinite development may always make its achievement seem meager and crude to those having the whole ideal in mind. But there is enough of it already in actual operation at Hull House to inspire a genuine interest in and study of the evolution of industry upon the part of both working people and employers; to tempt the investment of money and talent in the development of the Museum; and so to fascinate those already enlisted in the enterprise that their enthusiasm and persistence will assure its ever-increasing growth and success. On Saturday evenings, when most of the departments are to be seen in full operation, Hull House presents a scene which casts its spell over every observer and abides in the memory as a point of view whence a broader and truer outlook on all life is taken.

### Hartford's Labor Mayor.

The possibility of electing a representative of organized labor as Mayor of Hartford, Conn., would have seemed scarcely credible to one who knew that city and its labor unions ten years ago, as well as the writer knew them. The healthful mobility of American political life and the clear chance of welding the balance of power in the interest of any common cause which men can conscientiously espouse are hopefully demonstrated by the present situation in this old stronghold of political and social conservatism. Perhaps this fact is more significant to the country at large than the election of a more experienced politician would have been. That the hitherto unbroken reign of both political party machines could have been supplanted through the propaganda of a comparatively small, though active and earnest, non-political "Economic League of Workingmen," shows how potent industrial issues may be in politics.

The new Mayor thus creditably and modestly expressed his attitude toward the issues involved in his election at the hour of his triumph:

"I fully indorse the principles of the league as to municipal administration. Foremost among these and covering live questions of the day are free text books in the schools, municipal ownership of the local gas plant, to give better service

at lower cost, eight hours to be a day's work for all employees, living rates of wages for these men; employment of citizens only on any work paid for by the city; no contracts for street cleaning, sprinkling, or garbage\* collection, and, generally speaking, an honest and economical administration of city affairs.

"Here in Hartford we have seen the strength of united workingmen, and a demonstration of what the common people, an organization of the working people, can accomplish when the voters work shoulder to shoulder.

"We are gradually coming to the time when all men will be equal. We have got it in our power now in this city to place our principles in practice. The present is not a day of politicos and politicians, but of men and measures. I do not favor any man or set of men. I am anxious to be assisted in giving this city the best administration possible. If questions of finance are to be considered it seems to me right and proper for men who are known as skilled financiers to come and advise with the Mayor on questions of finance.

"When business matters are under consideration it would be proper, it seems to me, for business men to consult with the Mayor, not to come and attempt to force him to the wall. It is a teaching of our league as workingmen to be courteous to all men, to comport ourselves as the Christian virtues exact. We wish to respect all men and to respect the property rights of every one. It makes no difference to us whether a man is a union man or not. Is he deserving? is the only rule we shall apply.

"They say we are inexperienced in public matters. We have given a little time, a little attention, and a little study to civic affairs. If men who control capital would come and talk with us and learn our aims and our intentions there would be less misunderstanding. We do not want their wealth; we have the right to live, and we want to get living wages, and we want to raise labor in the estimation of the people of the American continent."

#### Robbing Children of their Childhood.

The decision of the Chicago Board of Education to cut off the kindergartens from our public school, because of insufficiency of funds, due, let us add, to wholesale tax-dodging, is arousing the people to form leagues for the protection of the kindergarten at settlement and other educational centers. The crisis has called forth from Jacob Riis the following letter to Miss Amalie Hofer, editor of the *Kindergarten Magazine*, which forcibly expresses the settlement sentiment:

"Dear Madam: My sentiments on the subject of playgrounds and kindergartens are expressed by me every day with tongue or pen or both, and I can add nothing to what I have said a thousand times—namely, that they are the prime factors in making good citizens. That is what it is coming to in the end, and a better beginning than they make I know not of.

"If we learn by doing, if play is the normal occupation of the child, in which he first perceives moral relations, what then of the playground that is set between two gutters always? I mean the street—in the past the only one the child had. From it must needs come tarnished citizenship.

"You cannot rob a child of its childhood and expect to appeal to the child's manhood by-and-by. It takes a whole boy to make a whole man, and a boy's clean play is a big part of him. That we have seen that and restored it at last is the best proof in the world that our fathers have not built in vain and that our freedom will endure. If that is not cause for rejoicing I should like to know what is. Yours sincerely, JACOB RIIS."

Among the features of Browning Hall work for men we note the following announcements for the new year:

The eighth year of the Pleasant Sunday Afternoons open to all men over 16 years, 3:30 to 4:30 every week.

The Men's Club and Public Coffee Tavern with rooms to let for meetings of trades unions, friendly societies, etc., and including billiard rooms, "a social lounge, with bagatelle, chess, drafts, ping-pong, newspapers, etc.," and "frank and brotherly company," and "adult school for men," conducted by Councillor Tom Bryan, M. A., is announced for Sundays, 11 a. m. The subject for the spring term is "Joseph Mazzini, His Influence on 19th Century Life and Thought." "A Greek testament class for beginners, conducted by F. Herbert Stead," is also among the Sunday announcements.

#### New Cottage at Macatawa for Rent.

A cottage of seven rooms and a bath-room, now being erected on an easily accessible bluff overlooking Lake Michigan, just south of Macatawa, will be ready for occupancy July 1. Any family desiring to inquire about this safe, comfortable, beautiful summer home between the Michigan woods and the great lake, seven hours from Chicago by daily steamer lines may address "The Commons," 180 Grand avenue, Chicago.

### COLLEGE SETTLEMENTS.

#### STANDING COMMITTEE.

*President:* KATHARINE COMAN, Wellesley, Mass.

*Vice President:* MARY K. SIMKHOVITCH (Mrs. Vladimir G. Simkhevitch), 248 East 34th St., New York City.

*Secretary:* MABEL GAIR CURTIS, 829 Boylston St., Boston.

*Treasurer:* ELSIE CLEWS PARSONS (Mrs. Herbert Parsons), 112 East 35th St., New York City.

*Fifth Member:* HELEN ANNAN SCRIBNER (Mrs. Arthur H. Scribner), 10 West 43d St., New York City.

#### SETTLEMENTS.

New York City—95 Rivington Street.

Philadelphia—433 Christian Street.

Boston—91 Tyler Street (Denison House).

EDITED FOR THE ASSOCIATION BY  
CAROLINE WILLIAMSON MONTGOMERY,  
5548 Woodlawn Avenue, Chicago.

### The Probation Law in Pennsylvania.

The probation law of Pennsylvania, a measure of the last Legislature, went into effect in May, 1901. It deals only with "dependent, neglected and delinquent children" under the age of sixteen, providing that such children shall be disposed of by a special court, known as the Juvenile Court, and that, if sent by the court back to their homes, they shall remain there under the oversight of a special officer appointed by the court. Such children may be brought into the Juvenile Court through petition by citizens, but usually they are sent from the magistrates' courts and station-houses. When a magistrate transfers the case of a child brought before him to the Juvenile Court several days must often elapse before the sitting of the court. The disposition of the child during that time is a serious question, since, so far, the state has provided no house of detention. In Philadelphia the Children's Aid Society, as far as possible, supplies this lack.

The act has met considerable opposition, both before and after its passage. Some contend that a previously existing law, if made mandatory instead of permissive, would have been sufficient. Others think that the spirit of the law unjustly discriminates against public reformatories. The House of Refuge, in particular, having an immense plant and excellent facilities for dealing with large numbers of boys, feels that the law only offers another way of doing work already effectively done. At present an attempt is being made to test the

constitutionality of the law on the ground of class legislation. The "taxpayer" has carried it into court, since the law requires an additional office and salary of \$1,000. Its supporters are not discouraged; they believe that, should the law fail, a new one of the same purport but of better form will come.

Like all other laws, only experience could show its practical workings and defects, if any. Its framers and supporters believe that by altering several small details its execution would be more effective. In the first place a state house of detention is needed. Secondly, the present rotatory system of judges for the court hinders a consistent and unified course of action. Lastly, and perhaps more important, the act does not include "incorrigible" children in its provisions. Another existing law permits magistrates to dispose of the class of children so-called. Hence a magistrate may, if he deems a child incorrigible, commit him immediately to a reformatory, without bringing the case before the Juvenile Court. This power is sometimes successfully invoked by parents who are tired of their children and want them "put away."

Since last July the cases of 366 dependent and 739 delinquent children have been dealt with. So far twelve probation officers have been employed, eight of whom represent various charitable societies. One of the judges says: "A few months' practical working of the act has shown what a wonderful agency for good the probation officer is. \* \* \* The whole scheme of the act is toward preventing delinquents from becoming criminals. It is the ounce of prevention which is far, far better than pounds of cure. It aims to place the erring child of years too tender to yet fully appreciate the dangers ahead, under the restraining, guiding hand of an officer of the court. The restraint is that of oversight, the guidance that of kindly advice backed by that power everywhere recognized, the power of the law."

Of the four Philadelphia probation officers not connected with societies, one has constantly made her home in the Philadelphia College Settlement, and here her probation boys come and bring their friends. Her idea is to provide a safe and natural outlet for the boy's social feelings, which he does possess, although his whole family may live in one room, and there is no place to entertain his friends except on the street. Many of these boys have been organized into clubs for gymnastics or other occupations of hand and head. The permitting of probation boys to bring their friends arose from a remark made by one of the friends that "a feller couldn't get to belong to one of them college settlement clubs unless he swiped somethin', or done

somethin' bad." That broke down one barrier and the probation boy brought in his gang, of which he was often the leader. In one such case the probationer was an Italian ragpicker of fifteen, arrested for stealing from a back yard. When told he might bring his friends to the club he brought in fourteen other big, thick-set Italian boys. As for himself he has abandoned ragpicking and now earns \$9 a week in the navy yard, and what is better, has a very appreciable gentle and good influence on the rest of his club.

Just one more successful probationer. A boy of thirteen robbed his employer of \$20. He simply registered his proper time for going to work and stopping; in the meantime he sneaked in and out and played on a neighboring lot. For three weeks he drew his pay, then came discovery. His employer had him arrested; the probation officer asked that he be taken back. The employer at first thought she was mad; afterward he remembered his own boys, appeared in court and promised to give the boy another trial. Two weeks ago the boy paid back the last of the stolen money and received an advance in his position. Under the old law he would have gone to the House of Refuge for two years.

The probation law has been in operation ten months and has done good and effective work, not only for the children themselves, but for the community as well. The best thought and feeling are on its side. A judge who is recorded as opposing the passage of the bill now says: "Great good to the children and public must necessarily follow their [the probation officers] labors of humanity for a class of children unable to protect themselves and criminally neglected by the community." As for the law itself he says, "It is its own best excuse for being."

EDITH JONES,  
College Settlement, Philadelphia.

April 9, 1902.

"Surely the largest field of usefulness is open to that church in which the spirit of brotherhood is a living and vital force and not a cold formula; in which the rich and poor gather together to aid one another in work for a common end. Brother can best help brother, not by almsgiving, but by joining with him in an intelligent and resolute effort for the uplifting of all."

"The spirit which exacts respect and yields it, which is anxious always to help in a mood of simple brotherhood, and which is glad to accept help in return—this is the spirit which enables men of every degree of wealth and of widely varying social conditions to work together in the heartiest good will and to the immense benefit of all."—Theodore Roosevelt, in the *Fortnightly Review*.

## ASSOCIATION OF NEIGHBORHOOD WORKERS, NEW YORK CITY.

EDITED FOR THE ASSOCIATION BY  
MARY KINGSBURY SIMKHOVITCH,  
248 East 34th Street, New York.

### Mr. Woods' Course for Neighborhood Workers.

The object of the course was to present a broad classification of the population in the working class districts of our cities; to suggest large lines of action designed to meet the situation in each industrial stratum; and, in particular, to show what the special constituency of the settlement is.

One must confront these problems not with any form of altruism, but in the spirit of constructive statesmanship. Government is not a tradition, but a science, and must adapt itself flexibly to things as they are. Social science is science in the same sense. The words by which we describe the person whose life has refinement and finish refer to the persons adaptedness to existence in a city—civil, polite, urbane. The truly cultivated person of these days shows the marks of his culture by coming in touch with the range of characteristic, contemporary city facts.

In endeavoring to mold city facts prescriptions are useless. One must be an opportunist—now gentle, now firm; now using edge tools, now heavy machinery; now dealing minutely with individuals, now acting comprehensively and exhaustively.

The need of painstaking analysis of city facts exists because, with the great growth of cities, not only has the administration of the city broken down, but the very conception of the city has broken down. Most citizens live on with the thought of their city as it was fifteen or twenty years ago. Others create out of part of it by a more or less imaginary boundary line a sort of village within which they have their "conversation."

Charles Booth has rendered a great service to progressive citizenship through his analysis of the London population. His classification (found in Vol. 1, "Labor and Life of the People") is to the social student of the nature of the alphabet or the multiplication table. He finds the problem of poverty in four classes, together including about 30 per cent of the London population—A (semi-criminal), B (casual labor), C (intermittent labor), D (regular low wages). He places the causes of poverty under three heads: matters of employment, of habit, of circumstance.

For the pauperized or semi-pauperized grades we need to organize large, systematic measures. They cannot be dealt with through the good deeds of the well-disposed. They represent a dangerous

hereditary and contagious social disease. The question of responsibility and blame counts for little when a person has fallen into a grade where most of the recuperative moral vitality is gone. With the insane and criminals we think much less about blame than formerly. Pauperism, confirmed and incipient, must be dealt with by careful classification, but by wholesale and exhaustively, as we deal with problems of sanitation and infection.

The pauper group is partly resident, partly roving.

The roving pauper (tramp) must be abolished. Let every city and every considerable town be required by statute to provide a lodging house where food and shelter will be provided in return for a severe stint of work. Make begging on the streets a punishable offense. Advertise to all householders that "sturdy beggars" be sent in every case to this lodging house. Experience has shown that towns adopting such a policy are instantly put upon the tramps' blacklist. An entire state could easily earn this happy opprobrium.

The resident pauper should have a special type of institution of an encouraging sort to deal with him in his early stages. In some cases after being tested he would fall into the ranks of the confirmed paupers; in others he could be trained into self-reliance.

The principle of the cumulative sentence should be applied to the confirmed pauper, the confirmed drunkard, the confirmed prostitute. They ought to be effectually prevented from spreading their curse through contagion and heredity.

Such a policy would secure a large saving of human life which now goes to waste in the human residuum. It would remove much of the ruinous competition by which the casual class undermines the employment of the intermittent worker and the wages of the regularly employed. It would eliminate a very perplexing factor from the problem of the unemployed. It would make the saloon the entrance to a bottomless pit. It would vastly simplify the work of organized charity among the intermittent workers and the work of the settlement among the low-paid regularly employed. It could be carried out by such a combination of determination and resource as goes with any of our large industrial combinations.

#### THE ARISTOCRACY OF LABOR.

The second lecture dealt with the aristocracy of labor. A nation's chief outlay for new investment is in the cost of producing and training the rising generation. The fundamental wealth of a nation lies in the productive capacity of the people.

Prof. Alfred Marshall estimates that about one-half of the best natural geniuses born into a country is born among the working classes. Most of

this is lost to itself and to the country through a narrow scheme of book-work education and through allowing promising boys and girls to end their education with the bare rudiments for the utterly ineffectual reason that their parents happen to be poor.

We need a great extension of manual and technical training, and a system of free scholarships by which undoubtedly talented boys and girls could receive as complete a training as they could later make good use of. Advanced education is not urged for the great mass of the children of the working classes. The development of character, physical health, and sufficient education to give them adaptability is what is needed for the average person.

Trained leaders for the direction of industry and for the organization of labor would be developed by a far-sighted policy like the one suggested.

#### INDIVIDUALIST AND COLLECTIVIST INDUSTRIAL CLASSES.

In the third lecture it was pointed out that the lowest and highest strata of industrial life were made up of individualists. In the one case necessities, in the other ambitions, drive the individual to direct effort after his personal ends. There is a great middle class of labor which is made up of collectivists. This is the working class proper—held together by the various forms of association which are characteristic of the proletariat. Not accessible on the basis of necessities, on the one hand, nor of ambitions on the other, it is impervious to the influence of organized charity from beneath or from special educational institutions from above.

#### WORKING CLASS ASSOCIATION.

This and the two following lectures dealt with the various ways of working class association.

It was shown that trades-unionism was an inevitable development of the factory system, and the only way by which the workman could bargain effectively with the man holding the power of organized capital.

The methods and objects of trades unions were explained. It was shown that in all of them there was a greater or less kernel of good, but that most of the trades union policy was liable to abuse. Being a necessary factor in modern industry we must take it at its best, and help to bring it up to its own standards.

Progress is being made in the matter of arbitration and conciliation. Under a joint board of conciliation, made up of a committee of employers and committee of workmen, some trades have had long immunity from conflicts, and this system is the surest way toward industrial peace.

In the end the organization of labor will be a constituent part of the complete and united organization of industry.

Socialism was traced through its characteristic French, German and English aspects. The Fabian type of Socialism was commended as avoiding the militarist discipline, rigid equality and ready-made doctrinaire character of the orthodox German Socialism. It was shown, however, that in Germany as Socialism becomes more powerful it becomes much more moderate and opportunist.

In America, conscious Socialism has been largely of the extreme German type. But that there is a large amount of incipient Socialism among the people of American stock the People's party movement has shown.

We may reasonably see advance toward economic socialism in the trades union movement: toward political socialism in the movement for the municipalization of public utilities, toward educational socialism in the extension of the means of training and culture to the working classes, and toward religious socialism in the growing hope of a better social order to come out of our present social confusion.

#### CRUDE SOCIALISM IN WARD POLITICS.

Ward politics is a kind of crude Socialism, basing itself upon the feeling that the power of the ballot ought to bring with it tangible economic betterment to the people. It involves an elaborate scheme of local social influence, including recreative, industrial, commercial, religious, family and neighborhood groups, all of which are used for their political value. The criminal, the unemployed, the casual, the unskilled laborer, the mechanic, the tradesman, the young man ambitious for some higher career than that of his father—are all met with offers of some actual economic service. To each of them the ballot becomes an asset—to many of them it is the only one.

The molding or the outright creation of local public sentiment is an important part of the work of the machine. The saloon is one of the chief centers for such influence.

Municipal reform must follow the lines of the boss' strategy. It must improve the economic condition of the people, by instituting a truly helpful local political programme. The boss cannot be destroyed, but a better boss can be developed by pushing to the front genuine issues as to local improvement. A public bath or a public playground is a sort of kindergarten training in democracy. Through such training the electorate is elevated and enlightened—and this is the only permanent way of reform in a democracy.

Home and neighborhood are the real strongholds

of working-class life. Working-class experiences, sentiments, gossip, vocabulary, cannot be understood except by seeing home and neighborhood from the inside. Charles Booth points out that near the line of poverty the fate of the home chiefly depends on the thrift of the wife. This is therefore the point at which wise help is greatly needed. Boys and girls should be trained for their future callings, and then actually launched, as the children of well-to-do parents are launched.

The back streets have a sort of village life which needs to be understood and influenced.

Nationality and religion serve to dig deeper the gulf of distinction created by wealth and poverty.

The settlement is an ingenious device for securing access to the otherwise almost inaccessible working class. It comes as a quasi-home, with potential neighbors, friends, fellow-citizens, ready to join in the various local forms of association on a basis of equal rights. This attitude of democratic co-operation secures approach to the working class on the basis of what is most real to it, its loyalties.

The settlement is a religious unity binding together rival churches. It makes a link of connection between the public school and the home. Different settlements widen their scope until the ripples of influence coalesce, creating a new moral synthesis, the pattern of the better city of the future.

#### The Social Reform Club.

The formation of the Social Reform Club was first proposed during the summer of 1894. On the conclusion of the municipal campaign of that year several preliminary meetings of social reformers were held, and the club was promptly organized at the residence of the Rev. Thomas J. Ducey, November 22. The more prominent persons connected with its founding were Prof. Felix Adler, Dr. Albert Shaw, the Rev. W. S. Rainsford, Prof. E. R. A. Seligman, the Rev. Leighton Williams, Dr. Charles B. Spahr, Mr. J. W. Sullivan, Mr. Henry White and Mr. E. H. Crosby.

Mr. E. H. Crosby was elected president and the Rev. W. S. Rainsford treasurer. The constitution, adopted at this meeting, limited the club's province of work and discussion to matters relating to the immediate needs of the wage-earners. General theories of society were to be tabooed. Investigation was to be made and arbitration attempted, in the case of labor disputes; legal aid was to be given in cases where justice demanded it; inquiry was to be made into industrial conditions, and weekly discussions on practical questions were to be held. The membership was to include women

and to be as nearly as possible equally divided between wage-earners and non-wage-earners.

The club's first quarters were at 7 Lafayette place. By December 29 the membership had grown to 118, women constituting about one-fourth of the total. On January 20, 1895, the quarters were moved to Second avenue and Fifth street. The first general public meeting of the club was held in Cooper Union, January 30, when the report of the Gilder Tenement House Commission was discussed. The speakers were the Rev. W. S. Rainsford, R. W. Gilder, Prof. Felix Adler, Prof. E. R. A. Seligman, Mr. Henry George and Mr. Edward King. It was an interesting and highly successful meeting and won for the club considerable prominence. A second popular meeting was held in the Criterion Theater, Brooklyn, February 28, to discuss the question of the municipal ownership of the street railways.

The first officers, with two or three exceptions, were re-elected (November, 1895) and three women were added to the executive council. January 1, 1896, the club moved to new quarters at 28 East Fourth street. The real practical work of the society began in this home (June, 1896) by the selection of a working programme and the appointment of committees to take up specific lines of inquiry and action. In many ways the club's influence and power were exerted in behalf of labor and its rapid recognition from the public.

Dr. Charles B. Spahr was elected president at the next election (November, 1896). Among the practical questions discussed during the club year was the state of the various city departments. This series of discussions strikingly revealed the abuses that had grown up under the previous Tammany administrations, and outlined the methods employed or attempted for their reformation. The various programme committees continued to do active work in industrial, social and administrative questions, and greatly augmented the club's influence.

Dr. Spahr was re-elected president in November 1897. The same general policy was continued throughout the year. A slight reaction, however, due to several causes, and particularly to the decline of public spirit consequent upon the triumph of Tammany Hall at the polls, was soon manifested in the club's activities; and it unquestionably lost ground as a public factor.

At the succeeding election (1898) Mr. Edmond Kelly was elected president. Resigning in February, 1899, he was succeeded by Mr. James K. Paulding, who was re-elected in the fall of the same year. The club had in the meantime (October, 1898) removed to 45 University place to considerably larger but otherwise less satisfactory

quarters. In November, 1900, Mr. Robert Van Iderstine was elected president. On his resignation shortly afterward, Mr. A. J. Boulton was chosen, and in November, 1901, the latter was succeeded by the present incumbent, Mr. W. Franklin Brush. In May, 1901, the club settled in its present home, 128 East Twenty-eighth street.

In the years following its most flourishing period (June, 1896-December, 1897) the club has followed a rather various policy. It has alternately broadened its scope to allow the discussion of general and theoretical questions and again narrowed it to the consideration of the most practical problems. The ebb and flow of interest in its work have been extreme; it has had its periods of dull stagnation no less than of ardent enthusiasm and fruitful activity. But against many obstacles it has survived; it has still a large membership and a healthy ledger, and it is the confident expectation of those who best know its history, its resources and its potential field of social endeavor that it will long endure as an influential factor in the socio-industrial affairs of the great metropolis.

W. G.

#### Child Labor Committee's Programme.

The committee of the Association of Neighborhood Workers, on Child Labor, met recently and organized various committees for collecting information concerning the extent of the evil in this community.

The following subcommittees were appointed: The Committee on Child Labor in Factories and Shops, Mrs. A. A. Hill; the Committee on Child Labor on the Street, Miss Lillian Wald, chairman; Child Labor in the Home, Miss Elizabeth Williams; Child Labor in Philanthropic Institutions, Mrs. S. W. Fitzgerald; Child Labor in Vacation Time, Mrs. M. K. Simkovich; Legal Committee, Calvin W. Stewart, chairman, 184 Eldridge street.

At this meeting of the committee it was decided that the various subcommittees would co-operate closely with every one in the community, especially with the various settlements, who have opportunities of observing child labor of various kinds.

It is hoped that each settlement will bear this matter in mind and make a special effort to investigate the conditions in their various localities, and that the residents doing this work will report to the chairman for the various subcommittees whenever they have come across information which will be of interest to our committees. Whatever organization of this work seems most satisfactory to the individual settlement will, of course, be satisfactory to the committee. The only thing that the committee wishes to urge is that unless some of the residents in each settlement may be inclined

to give this matter special attention the general committee will not be able to collect as much information concerning this matter as we should have. The general committee will be dependent upon the settlements to a very large extent, and it hopes for a cordial and active co-operation. If any in the various settlements can give an unusual amount of time in the matter we should be very glad to hear from them. Very sincerely yours,

ROBERT HUNTER, Chairman.

#### The Year at Alta House.

The past year the Alta House has been one of great interest. I fancy we have all felt more keenly than usual the privileges, joys and satisfaction of settlement life. There has been a strong bond of sympathy and unity of purpose among the residents that could not but have its effect upon the life of the neighborhood. Consequently our clubs and classes have never been so full. April 15 we opened the second kindergarten in the house in our effort to meet the needs of the little children. We now have an enrollment of 118, but still there is a waiting list, with many mothers anxiously inquiring when they may send their children.

Since the Christmas holidays we have added 276 to the membership of the various clubs and classes, and now have a total of 1,265, besides those who use the more public features of the house—the baths, poolroom and dispensary. At Easter time we invited the kindergarten mothers to come in one afternoon, and sixty-five responded to the invitation. All Italians but six. Miss Guthrie, for a time our resident nurse (and consequently knowing many of the mothers), speaks the dialect of our people fluently and was of great assistance.

The mothers were seated around a large circle while she explained in their own language the motive of our work with their little ones.

Our kindergarteners then played several games which were carefully explained. After that many of the younger mothers, upon being invited, got up and joined them, greatly to the delight of the others who were looking on. It was a happy afternoon indeed, and after the playing of the games the residents met and talked with them while refreshments were served. On leaving each one carried away a flower as a remembrance of the Easter thought that had been given them during the afternoon.

The Alta House still continues to take a share in the public life of the community. A careful canvass shows its nine short streets to contain a population of 2,371 men, women and children, with 862 children under 14 years of age; 1,203 of the population are Italians, 257 were born in the

United States, 66 of whom are colored, 120 are German, 93 English, 32 Irish, and the balance Scotch, Scandinavians, French, Russian and other countries. There has been little serious illness and no contagious disease among us this winter, for the first time since the house was opened.

The latest additions to the work are: A class of twenty-five piano pupils, chorus of twenty-two colored people, from 18 to 35 years of age, and a class in manual training. The regular spring work in the Domestic Science cottage has opened well and the poolroom is averaging fifteen a night.

All things considered, we feel the winter has proved the co-operation of the neighborhood beyond a doubt, and the devotion of the residents to the life they have chosen here.

KATHERINE E. SMITH, Head Worker.

#### The Hartley House Cook Book.

During the last few years a great number of cook books have been inflicted upon the unsuspecting public, many novices in the art of cooking seeming to feel their tenure of office insecure unless they rush madly into print, the result being a few good and many utterly worthless productions. One of the very best of these few good books is the little manual issued last year by Miss Ella A. Pierce, director of the cooking classes at Hartley House, called the "Hartley House Cook Book and Home Economist."

This book seems to fill a long-felt want, being the most simple and altogether practical work of this kind that has appeared for some time. It is the outgrowth of the work in the Hartley House Settlement, where particular attention is paid to the improvement of housekeeping in the neighborhood, and to further which end domestic science, kitchen gardening and sewing receive especial attention. Cooking classes in the tenements are also a feature of this work, and the desire to aid this class of its workers, among whom is an increasing demand for the printed receipts used in the Hartley House cooking classes, led to the publication of this book. It is certainly true, as Miss Pierce says in her introduction, that the average American family spends much more for food than is necessary for adequate nourishment, and every one of the six hundred receipts given in this book can be recommended to those who wish to live well at a moderate cost.

#### PESTALOZZI-FROEBEL, Kindergarten Training School at Chicago Commons.

Two years' course in Kindergarten Theory and Practice. A course in home making. Industrial and Social Development emphasized. Includes opportunity to become familiar with Social Settlement Work. For circulars and particulars, address  
BERTHA HOFER HEGNER, 363 No. Winchester Ave.  
Chicago

### May Festival at Chicago Commons.

To give our neighbors and outside friends a little glimpse of what has been going on at Chicago Commons all winter, and for the benefit at our summer outing work, an exhibit is announced for Friday and Saturday afternoons and evenings, May 9th and 10th. The cooking and sewing schools, manual training, art classes, girls and boy's clubs, the carpetweaving loom, hat and basket making, instrumental and vocal classes and gymnasium drills will all contribute to the interest of the occasion, and stereopticon views of Camp Commons in the Penney Meadow near Elgin, Ill., will be shown. The Festival will conclude on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, May 13th and 14th, with the production of the opera, "The Chimes of Normandy," by the Chicago Commons Choral Club, assisted by the Hinshaw School of Opera and Orchestral Accompaniment.

#### OUR FRONT DOORYARD PLANTED.

Through the kindness of a friend, who pays filial tribute to his mother's love of flowers, which he shares, by making several settlement houses bright with blossom and sweet with fragrance, our dooryard entrance has been made beautiful and inviting with lawn, bushes, flowering plants, ivy and three whole trees. The reservation of this little open space at the heart of our city wilderness of boards and brick is worth more to those outside and within our house than anything we could have built upon it. Our good friend and his Sunday-school children, who shared the privilege of creating this little beauty spot, will never regret their investment in this bit of "God's country" among the multitude, whose lives are so completely divorced from nature.

#### NEW PLAYGROUND OPENED.

Through the co-operation of the Vacation School Committee we are thankful to announce the early opening of a public playground opposite Chicago Commons on the northwest corner of Grand avenue and Morgan street. When this committee offered to assure the fence and contribute toward the apparatus, the settlement could not do less than assume the expense of the nominal rental of the ground and provide volunteer supervision. Surely the two or three hundred dollars required will be considered a good investment by those who will want to take shares in it before going on their summer vacations. The Committee hold out some hope of placing a Vacation School in our neighboring Washington School building.

#### SHELTERING THE MATHEON DAY NURSERY.

To assure the continuance of the good service rendered our neighborhood through the past six years by the Day Nursery, Chicago Commons re-

lieves the Matheon Club of the expense of rental by taking it under our own roof for the summer. We hope this club of young ladies, which has hitherto borne the whole expense of the Nursery, will with such co-operation as we can render, be able to make permanent provision for it in the autumn. Parents who appreciate their need of help in caring for their children will realize what it means to a working mother to have her little ones safely cared for all day while she is earning the living. What help to self-help can be more effectively considerate than this? Should we not expect offers of assistance to shelter the Nursery, which the Matheon Club will continue to support and manage, until the proposed annex to our new building is furnished by one or two generous hearts?

Meanwhile, the space awaiting it will be utilized as a playground for the little children of the Nursery and the Summer Kindergarten.

#### PUBLIC RECEPTION TO OUR ALDERMEN.

As the asperities of the vigorous aldermanic campaign speedily softened, Chicago Commons buried the hatchet under a love-feast. All the people of the 17th Ward were invited to meet their aldermen at a public reception tendered Alderman and Mrs. John F. Smulski and Alderman and Mrs. Wm. E. Dever. The significance of the scene of democratic hospitality and good fellowship lay in the fact that the senior alderman is a Republican, elected a year ago by 1300 majority, and the junior alderman a Democrat, elected this spring by over 1800 majority—the balance of power centering, at both elections, very near the Community Club rooms in Chicago Commons.

#### VISITATION OF STUDENTS.

Within the past few weeks entire classes of students with their instructors from the University of Chicago, the McCormick and Lutheran Theological Seminaries, and the University of Wisconsin have spent afternoons and evenings at the settlement. Settlement Fellowship students from the Universities of Wisconsin and Michigan have also been in residence during the winter. Delegations from kindergarten and other training schools are constantly coming in touch with the work. Students of the Chicago Theological Seminary are assigned to settlement service as part of the curriculum in the Sociological department.

#### Pressing Needs of Chicago Commons.

To cancel building debt and interest....	\$12,280
For support of work through the year....	5,600
To equip and maintain public play-ground .....	500
For summer camp and outings .....	1,000
To shelter Matheon Day Nursery.....	400
For Men's Club and Manual Training Annex .....	10,000

